

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Conservation of Mangrove Forests

114. SHRI RAVINDRA DATTARAM WAIKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote, protect and conserve the mangrove forests as a unique, natural ecosystem in the country, State-wise including the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether mangrove forests on various sea coasts in the country are being destroyed by the people and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any stringent rules and regulations have been formulated to deal with those who destroy mangrove forests;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the culprits;
- (e) whether the Government is considering any concrete plan for restoration/reforestation of mangroves and whether any proposal is under consideration with the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (d) The Government has been taking steps to protect and enhance mangrove cover in the country through promotional as well as regulatory measures. Financial assistance has been provided to nine coastal States and one Union Territory under the Scheme for 'Conservation and Management of Mangrove and Coral Reefs'. Thirty-Eight identified sites in these States and Union Territory have been covered under the scheme. The details of the identified sites is given in **Annexure I**. Regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) Notification (2019) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.

The State Government of Maharashtra has taken several proactive steps for conservation of mangroves. The State Government has established a Mangrove Cell, dedicated for Mangrove conservation. Further, Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation has been established by the State for enhancing mangrove cover and to promote research and livelihood activities.

(e) & (f) The “Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes” scheme has been launched to restore and promote mangroves as unique, natural eco-system and for preserving and enhancing the sustainability of the coastal habitats. The scheme was launched on 5th June 2023 with the objective to “restore mangrove forests” by undertaking mangrove reforestation/ afforestation measures along the coast of India. This programme envisage covering approximately 540 sq km area across nine coastal States and four Union Territories including Maharashtra. A total of ₹ 12.55 crores have been released to the States of Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala and UT of Puducherry for restoration of 3,046 ha. of mangroves in financial year 2024-25.

Annexure I

Sl. No.	State / UT	Mangrove Site
1.	West Bengal	1. Sundarbans
2.	Odisha	2. Bhitarkanika
		3. Mahanadi Delta
		4. Subernarekha
		5. Devi Kadua Estuary
		6. Dhamra
		7. Mangrove Genetic Resources Centre
		8. Chilka
		3.
10. Krishna		
11. East Godavari		
4.	Tamil Nadu	12. Pichavaram
		13. Muthupet
		14. Ramnad
		15. Pulicat
		16. Kazhuveli
5.	Andaman and Nicobar	17. North Andamans
		18. Nicobar
6.	Kerala	19. Vembanad
		20. Kannur
7.	Karnataka	21. Honnavar/Dakshin Kannada
		22. Coondapur
		23. Karwar
		24. Managalore Forest Division
8.	Gujarat	25. Gulf of Kutch
		26. Gulf of Khambat
		27. Dumas Ubhrat
9.	Goa	28. Goa
10.	Maharashtra	29. Achra-Ratnagiri
		30. Devgarh-Vijay Durg
		31. Veldur
		32. Kundalika-Revdanda
		33. Mumbra-Diva
		34. Vikroli
		35. Shreevardhan
		36. Vaitarna
		37. Vasai-Manori
		38. Malvan